

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (Currently amended) A lighting unit comprising:

a lighting element provided with a light source, a light guiding plate having the light source provided at one of facets thereof and guiding light emitted from the light source to and a reflector covering a rear face and the facets of the light guiding plate and the light source,

wherein said light source emits the light from a light emission face;~~and~~

a reflector ~~for~~ covering a rear face and the facets of the light guiding plate and the light source; and

a housing ~~for~~ covering an edge portion of the light emission face of the lighting element, the facets and the rear face of the lighting element;~~and wherein~~

a shield portion ~~for~~ shielding gaps which ~~formed~~ are formed between the housing and the lighting element and ~~extends~~ extend to the light emission face,

wherein said shield portion is provided between at least the rear face of the lighting element and the housing.

2. (Currently amended) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein

heat discharge holes ~~for~~ discharging heat generated in the lighting unit to the outside of the lighting unit are formed in a region of the housing,

wherein the region is located so as to correspond to the rear face of the lighting element.

3. (Currently amended) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein
- the housing ~~has~~ comprises a frame portion which covers the edge portion of the light emission face and the facets of the lighting element, and
- a rear face supporting portion which covers the rear face of the lighting element and the lower end portion of the frame portion.
4. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion is tabular and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an inner periphery and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.
5. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 3, wherein the shield portion has the shape of a box and is positioned in such a fashion that an outer periphery thereof is between an inner periphery and an outer periphery of each of the frame portion.
6. (Original) The lighting unit according to claim 1, wherein the shield portion is made from a material having heat conductivity higher than that of the air.
7. (Original) A liquid crystal display device characterized by comprising the lighting unit of claim 1 and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face side of the lighting unit.
8. (Original) A liquid crystal display device characterized by comprising the lighting unit of claim 6 and a liquid crystal panel disposed on the light emission face of the lighting unit.